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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,699	01/25/2006	Dieter Scheller	6102-000009/US/NP	2513
28997 7590 02/14/2011 HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C. 7700 Bonhomme, Suite 400 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105				
EXAMINER CARTER, KINDRA D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1627				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/565,699

**Applicant(s)**

SCHELLER ET AL.

**Examiner**

KENDRA D. CARTER

**Art Unit**

1627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9, 28 and 72-82 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-27, 29-71 and 83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-848)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/18/10
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 18, 2010 has been entered.

The Examiner acknowledges the applicant's remarks and arguments of November 18, 2010 made to the office action filed May 27, 2010. Claims 9-83 are pending. Claim 83 is new. Claims 9, 28 and 72-82 are withdrawn as belonging to a non-elected group.

For the reasons in the previous office action and below, the Applicant's arguments of all 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections were found not persuasive. In order to further clarify the rejections, the new rejections are below.

In light of the amendments to the claims the new 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections are below. The Applicant's arguments are addressed below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1) **Claims 10-20, 27, 29-71 and 83 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al. (US 4,501,890) in view of Corrigan et al. (Depression and Anxiety, 2000, vol. 1, pp. 58-65), Pfeiffer (Drugs Aging, 2002, vol. 19, no. 8, p. 561-570), in further view of Bronzava et al. (US 2005/0038015 A1), Marquis (US 6,350,773 B1), Rimpler et al. (US 2003/0180332 A1), and Dinan et al. (US 2005/0037983 A1).**

Nichols et al. teach that the compounds of Formula III and IV are dopamine D2 agonist and are substantially devoid of other agonist or antagonist blocking activities. As D2 agonists, the compounds are useful in treating Parkinson's syndrome and depression in mammals (see abstract and column 3, lines 20-26).

Nichols et al. does not teach that rotigotine treats any type of depression (claims 10, 12-15, 32-44 and 83) in humans (claim 11) or that rotigotine is administered parenterally, transdermally or mucosally (claim 17). Nichols et al. also does not teach the amounts or rotigotine to be administered (claims 18-20 and 45-59). Nichols et al. also does not specifically teach the combination or non-combination with other pharmaceutical agents as in claims 16, 27, 29, 31, 60-71.

Corrigan et al. teach that pramipexole, a D2 receptor agonist, treated depression safely in individuals with major depression (see abstract).

Pfeiffer teaches that rotigotine is a known D2 receptor agonist and is a well tolerated candidate for transdermal Parkinson's Disease treatment (see page 566, column 2, 3.3 Rotigotine, first paragraph).

Bronzava et al. teach that D2 agonist can be combined with serotonin and/or noradrenaline reuptake inhibitory activity such as citalopram or fluoxetine (see abstract and paragraph 19).

Marquis teaches a method and composition for the treatment of depression comprising the combination of a D2/D3 agonist and an antipsychotic such as thioridazine (i.e. an anxiolytic), fluphenazine, clozapine, haloperidol, thioridazine, risperidone and olanzapine (see column 1, lines 13-20; claims 3, 6 and 10). The combination can be in a unitary form or separately for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration (see paragraph 4, lines 1-8 and lines 55-63).

Rimpler et al. teach that rotigotine (N-0923) and its metabolites and prodrugs can be administered with other agents such as diphenhydramine (see paragraphs 89, 110 and 119).

Dinan et al. teach a method of treating depression with anti-inflammatory compounds such as ibuprofen (see claim 4) in combination with antidepressant compounds (see abstract). The combination can be in a unitary dosage form or in separate dosage forms intended for simultaneous or sequential administration to a subject in need of treatment (see page 6, paragraph 68).

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious and motivated to combine the method of Nichols et al. and the compound rotigotine to treat any type of depression (claims 10-15, 17, 30, 32-44 and 83) in humans because of the following teachings: 1) Nichols et al. provides the teaching that

D2 agonist treat depression and Parkinson's disease; 2) Corrigan et al. teach that pramipexole, a D2 receptor agonist, treated depression safely in individuals with major depression (see abstract); and 3) Pfeiffer teaches that rotigotine is a known D2 agonist and well tolerated for transdermal Parkinson's disease in humans. Thus, since it is known that D2 agonist treat both depression and Parkinson's disease, one skilled in the art would be motivated to try a known effective D2 agonist that treats Parkinson's disease to also treat any type of depression.

In regards to the method being administered with or without another antidepressant (claims 16, 27, 29, and 31), Nichols et al. does not teach that the D2 agonist needed to be administered with another antidepressant to treat depression, thus it is understood that rotigotine would not have to be administered with another antidepressant. On the other hand, administering another anti-depressant would be obvious because both compounds would be used to treat depression. "It is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose.... [T]he idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art." *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 850, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980). See also *In re Crockett*, 279 F.2d 274, 126 USPQ 186 (CCPA 1960); *Ex parte Quadranti*, 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992); and *In re Geiger*, 815 F.2d 686, 2 USPQ2d 1276 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

In regards to the amounts of administration in claims 18-20 and 45-59, it is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

One skilled in the art would have found it obvious and motivated to administer rotigotine with the specific agents in claims 60-69 in a single or separate dose (claims 70 and 71) because Bornzava et al., Marquis, Rimpler et al. and Dinan et al. have demonstrated the combination therapy of an anti-depressant with the claimed therapeutic agents that can be administered as a single dosage form or separately. "It is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose.... [T]he idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art." *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 850, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980). See also *In re Crockett*, 279 F.2d 274, 126 USPQ 186 (CCPA 1960); *Ex parte Quadranti*, 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992); and *In re Geiger*, 815 F.2d 686, 2 USPQ2d 1276 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

**2) Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al. (US 4,501,890) in view of Corrigan et al. (Depression and Anxiety, 2000, vol. 1, pp. 58-65), Pfeiffer (Drugs Aging, 2002, vol. 19, no. 8, p. 561-570), in further view of Bronzava et al. (US 2005/0038015 A1), Marquis (US**



**6,350,773 B1), Rimpler et al. (US 2003/0180332 A1), and Dinan et al. (US 2005/0037983 A1) as applied to claims 10-20, 27, 29-71 and 83 above in further view of Lauterbach et al. (WO 02/089777 A1) and Hoffmann et al. (US 4,769,028).**

The teachings of Nichols et al., Corrigan et al., Pfeiffer, Bronzava et al., Rimpler, and Dinan et al. are as applied above.

Nichols et al., Pfeiffer, Corrigan et al., Bronzava et al., Rimpler, and Dinan et al. do not specifically teach rotigotine in the free base or hydrochloride salt (claim 23). The above references also do not teach rotigotine in a plaster with a matrix that gives constant plasma levels (claims 24-26).

Lauterbach et al teaches rotigotine in a silicone adhesive matrix transdermal system (see page 10, lines 1-5 and 23-27) that provide sufficient drug plasma levels to provide a satisfactory therapeutic effectiveness (i.e. constant plasma level; see page 6, lines 11-20). Rotigotine is in the form of its free base (see page 11, lines 12-15), in which the final product is a film (see page 14, line 6). Transdermal equivalents of the patch are comprised in the above system (see page 10, lines 23-30).

Lauterbach et al. does not teach a plaster.

Hoffmann et al. teach a medical plaster that releases the active agent in a matrix and comprises adhesive properties (see column 3, lines 47-61 and column 5, lines 1-32) such that the release rate of the active agent may be controlled.

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to combine the method of Nichols et al. and Pfeiffer and rotigotine free base (claim 23) in a plaster with a matrix that gives constant plasma levels (claims 24-26) because of the following teachings: 1) Lauterbach et al. teach a film of rotigotine in a silicone adhesive matrix transdermal system (see page 10, lines 1-5 and 23-27) that provide sufficient drug plasma levels to provide a satisfactory therapeutic effectiveness (i.e. constant plasma level; see page 6, lines 11-20); and Hoffmann et al. provides teaching that adhesive medical plasters can be made to provide controlled release of active agents. Thus, one skilled in the art can make a plaster of the Lauterbach et al. transdermal system to provide controlled release of the rotigotine.

**3) Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al. (US 4,501,890) in view of Corrigan et al. (Depression and Anxiety, 2000, vol. 1, pp. 58-65), Pfeiffer (Drugs Aging, 2002, vol. 19, no. 8, p. 561-570), in further view of Bronzava et al. (US 2005/0038015 A1), Marquis (US 6,350,773 B1), Rimpler et al. (US 2003/0180332 A1), and Dinan et al. (US 2005/0037983 A1) as applied to claims 10-20, 27, 29-71 and 83 above in further**

**view of den Daas et al. (Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch Pharmacol, 1990, 342, pp. 655-659).**

The teachings of Nichols et al., Corrigan et al., Pfeiffer, Bronzava et al., Rimpler, and Dinan et al. are as applied above.

Nichols et al., Pfeiffer, Corrigan et al., Bronzava et al., Rimpler, and Dinan et al. do not specifically teach a prodrug of rotigotine as in claims 21 and 22.

Den Daas et al. teach that prodrugs of rotigotine (i.e. N-0437), including the acetyl, propionyl and the isobutyryl ester give activity after 2-3 hours after application and provides activity after 23 hours (see page 656, column 2, last paragraph), compared to the transdermal application of rotigotine. Possible reasons for the lag time difference for transdermal application between rotigotine and its prodrugs is that the limited amount of metabolizing enzymes in the skin first inactivate N-0437, and that subsequently the remaining free N-0437 can penetrate the circulatory system. The ester prodrugs are protected against metabolic attack in the skin and enter more rapidly (see page 658, column 2, paragraph 2).

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to combine the method of Nichols et al. and Pfeiffer and a prodrug of rotigotine as in claims 21 and 22 because den Daas et al. teach that prodrugs of rotigotine are

active before rotigotine transdermally because the ester prodrugs are protected against metabolic attack in the skin and enter more rapidly (see page 658, column 2, paragraph 2).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant's argue that unlike Nichols' compounds, rotigotine is not solely a D2 agonist. Particularly, Scheller et al. teach that rotigotine can be characterized as a specific dopamine receptor agonist with a preference for the D3 receptor over D2 and D1 receptors. Further, Wang et al. teach that the excessive stimulation of the D1 receptor may participate in the failure of coping behavior leading to learned helplessness and therefor in the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying the development of depression, in which rotigotine does have D1 receptor activity.

The Examiner disagrees because *at the time of the invention* rotigotine was known as a D2 agonist. Belluzzi et al.(see abstract), Beaulieu et al. (see abstract), Pfeiffer (see page 566, column 2, 3.3 Rotigotine, first paragraph), and even the applicant's (see specification, paragraph 5) all teach that rotigotine is a D2 agonist. Thus, *at the time of the invention* one skilled in the art would be motivated to use a D2 agonist to treat depression based on the teaching of Nichols et al., Pfeiffer, Bronzava et al, and Marquis. Further, Marquis teaches that a D2/D3 agonist can treat depression (see column 1, lines 13-20). In regards to Wang et al., since at the time of the invention, rotigotine was known to be a D2 agonist, particularly a 15:1 ratio selection of

D2 over D1 (see Belluzzi et al. abstract), one skilled in the art would not expect an excessive stimulation of the D1 receptor.

The Applicant's continue to argues that there is no motivation to combine the six cited documents because none of the documents teach that rotigotine is utilized in the treatment of depression. The compounds of Nichols are not similar to rotigotine, and the fact that they are both D<sub>2</sub> agonist is not enough to establish that rotigotine will effectively treat depression. The amount of experimentation is too great to provide any predictability or reasonable expectation of success. There are no models of depression tested by Nichols. Only with hindsight would one know that rotigotine has antidepressant properties. The same arguments hold true for the eight way rejection over Nichols, Pfeiffer, Bronzava, Marquis, Rimpler, Dinan, Lauterbach and Hoffman, and the seven way rejection over Nichols, Pfeiffer, Bronzava, Marquis, Rimpler, Dinan and den Daas.

The Examiner continues to disagree because motivation to combine the references have been given in the previous office action and above. Particularly, there is an obviousness to try and expectation of success for rotigotine to have anti-depressive activity because the compound of Nichols and rotigotine are both D<sub>2</sub> agonist and treat Parkinson's disease. Thus, the method of treating depression and Parkinson's disease is effective through the D2 agonistic pathway. One skilled in the art would obviously try rotigotine for depression because of its mechanistic action and common therapeutic efficacy for Parkinson's disease as the Nichols compounds. Those, compounds of this type would obviously be combined together and with other anti-depressant compounds in order to effectively treat depression and Parkinson's disease. Nichols does not need to provide a specific example of depression. Corrigan et al. and Muscat (Biological Psychiatry, May 1992, vol. 31, issue 9, pp. 937-946,

abstract provided) also teach of other compounds with different structures that treat depression, but are both D2 agonist. It is within the skill of the art to test a compound that has the same mechanistic action to treat a condition, in which in this case is depression.

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

### ***Conclusion***

No claims allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KENDRA D. CARTER whose telephone number is (571)272-9034. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kendra D Carter

Examiner, Art Unit 1627

/SREENI PADMANABHAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1627